

Christ and the Spirit come in, subdue self and victory will be ours. There are not a few troubled with this fault and we need to cultivate the same until we are able to speak kind words even to our enemies. "Passion and anger make a man unfit for everything that becomes him as a man or as a Christian."

#### ADVANTAGES OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT CHURCHES.

PIEBE SWART.

In order to discuss this subject intelligently, it is well to observe, first, that all organizations whether physical, social or religious, aim at the bringing about of certain results; that each organization consists of many different members; that each member has its functions, more or less important, yet absolutely necessary to the perfect working of such organization; and that many intricacies arise out of the correlation of the functions of so many members.

Omitting all further reference to physical and social organizations, let us at once enter upon the consideration of religious or church organizations.

What is their aim? They, doubtless, all aim to obey the command of Jesus, when he called his eleven disciples about him and said, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you." All Christians profess to believe that obedience to the teaching of Christ and the observance of his commands are all sufficient for the spiritual happiness of man, now and for all time to come; that it elevates man's soul to a plane as high as heaven itself and as lasting. The advent of Christ to earth was heralded by the angels of heaven shouting: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to man."

In the main, Christians are of one faith, believing in the salvation of mankind through Christ, and as such, are one brotherhood. If one part of the Christian body prosper all the members share in such prosperity. If one part of such body suffer, it affects the whole body Christian. That which is to the advantage of one Christian organization is to the advantage of all. If this spirit of sympathy is emulated, then, indeed, do we glorify God in the highest, then do we indeed, establish peace on earth and good will to man.

Some one might ask, why then, so many denominations? Let it be observed that all men live under different circumstances and that man is to a great extent a creature

of circumstances and also, that each person has his idiosyncrasies of body as well as of mind. Why are you or I a member of the Brethren church? Simply because the observances of Christ's commands as practiced by the Brethren are most congenial to our feelings and ideas. For instance, in partaking of the sacrament or Lord's Supper. Some break bread and drink of the cup merely as an act of obedience to the command, "Do this in remembrance of me." We of the Brethren church wash feet, eat a supper, and then break the bread and partake of the cup as we believe Christ commanded us to do. In this we not only obey the command, but are reminded of the unselfishness and self humiliation of Christ for our good; and that as Christians, we pledge ourselves to the glorification of God by offering ourselves to the service of our fellowmen whom God so loved as to offer up for their salvation, his most precious gift, Christ his beloved Son. The observance of the ordinances as we practice them, are congenial to our understanding, and therefore best for us; but this does not acquit us of our obligations to others who may view things from a different standpoint, being placed under different circumstances.

In all his sayings and teachings, Christ ever evinces the broadest and most liberal spirit of tolerance, good will and charity; and continually cautions us against bigotry—that outgrowth of pride and selfishness, and of phariseism in general. For these and many other reasons it is advantageous to co-operate with all Christian organizations which evince this spirit of liberality, being ever mindful that a mistaken, and even a fallen brother is a brother still, as long as he remains within the pale of Christian influences.

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#### THE QUIET HOUR.

EMMA BEATRICE GNAGEV.

For every Christian there is reserved a quiet hour, an hour when he is alone with God. The Christian affords no sweeter pleasure than going into an upper room where he may close the door and bar out the world with its trials and cares, its perplexities and misunderstandings, and its sin and sorrow. Here he may pour out his thanks to God for the comforts with which he is surrounded; here too he may shed the "penitential tear" and ask the forgiveness of his sins; and here too he may pray for those he loves best, for all Christian people, and for the world, the many who know Him not. His soul is lifted higher, his heart is purer, his mind more free, and his intelligence broader after such an hour with God.

To the busy pastor who has all day been with his people, rejoicing with the joyful and weeping with the sad, this hour comes with untold blessings. To the doctor who sees only the sorrow and suffering of the world, whose life is almost all self-sacrifice, the quiet hour comes bringing comfort and courage. The business man who has spent the day in the crowded streets and markets where solitude is unknown, is here made free for a while at least from the problems which have all day perplexed him. The father who has toiled hard that he might earn bread for his family may here be refreshed and encouraged. But to none is the pleasure sweeter and the blessing richer than to the mother. All day the little ones have brought their burdens and sorrows to her. All day she must share each tiny joy of theirs. When the twilight deepens and the shadows gather she lays each head on its pillow and is comforted with the thought that the unseen King will be about their beds. Now she too has a quiet hour with God and gains new strength for the morrow.

Where is the one who can measure the influence of the quiet hour? An hour spent "where none but God can hear."

#### SYSTEMATIC GIVING.

MRS. MARGARET CLARK.

System: Anything formed of parts placed together; orderly arrangement; regular method or order; (the universe.)

Systematic: Formed or done according to system; (methodical systemize); to reduce to method. Method: Orderly manner. (System.)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. God had a system when he created the heaven and the earth. He afterward created man and placed him in the garden eastward of Eden, also a woman, and God gave them a system to live by, but they failed to live up to that system. One thousand six hundred and fifty-six years after Adam God became displeased with the wickedness of the world and gave Noah a system to build an ark for the saving of himself and family. About 422 years after the flood God called Abram to be his servant and God gave him a system to live by. And about 430 years after this we read: God chose himself a people, the children of Israel, and God gave them a system to live by, and in the year 3974 God gave us a Savior—the greatest gift that ever was given unto man and unto us. Christ gave a system whereby we are to serve him.

This Christ has taught us that we are not our own nor aught we possess is our own, but we are Christ's. He said suffi-